

In re Appln. of Yu et al.
Application No. 09/992,302

REMARKS

Claims 14-19, 21-27, and 31-32, directed to a method of treating a set gypsum-containing material, are pending currently. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to express their gratitude for the courtesies extended by Examiner Shosho during the course of the interviews with the undersigned attorney on May 17-18, 2004. During the course of the interviews, applicants pointed out the novelty and non-obviousness of the pending claims over the cited art, particularly over Veeramasuneni et al. (i.e., U.S. Patent No. 6,409,824), on which all of the rejections are premised.

The revised pending claims recite the feature that at least one member from each of the following types of inorganic phosphate salts: monobasic phosphate salts, trimetaphosphate salts, and acyclic polyphosphate salts having at least three phosphate units, is applied to the set gypsum-containing material. In the interview, applicants pointed out that Veeramasuneni et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the revised pending claims because the reference does not disclose or suggest the combination of each of the three recited types of inorganic phosphate salts. Applicants explained that Veeramasuneni et al. does not disclose combining a monophosphate with polyphosphates, as recited in the revised pending claims. Moreover, with respect to column 9, lines 41-63 of Veeramasuneni et al., applicants noted that Veeramasuneni et al. does not suggest that classes of phosphates be combined. Applicants also discussed that the specific example cited by the Examiner at column 9, lines 58-60, disclosed only the combination of sodium trimetaphosphate with ammonium polyphosphate, with no mention of a third phosphate, let alone a monophosphate. The Examiner agreed that Veeramasuneni et al. does not anticipate the pending claims. Applicants also pointed out that the revised pending claims are not obvious in light of the cited art. By way of example, applicants pointed to the data in Table I of the pending application, as explained in applicants' response of April 7, 2004.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the anticipation and obviousness rejections should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

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The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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